

EASTER FOOTBALL.

LUTON TAKE FOUR POINTS OF POSSIBLE SIX.

Still in the Running.

By Crusader.

AT CHARLTON, ON FRIDAY—

CHARLTON ATHLETIC		4
LUTON TOWN		1

SCORERS.—For Charlton, Horton, Astley, Wyper, Pugsley.
For Luton, Rennie.
14,000 spectators.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC.—Lindon; Smith, Langford; Hird, G. H. Armitage, Pugsley; Wyper, Astley, Lennox, Rankin, Horton.

LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Richards, Harris; Clark, Fulton, Fraser; Daly, Roe, Rennie, Yardley, Bedford.

Referee:—Mr. J. V. Pennington, Reading.

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AT LUTON, ON SATURDAY.

LUTON TOWN		5
SWINDON TOWN		3

SCORERS.—For Luton, Yardley, Rennie, Yardley, Rennie, Roe.
For Swindon, Eddleston, Morris, Eddleston.
9,500 spectators.

LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Richards, Harris; Clark, Fulton, Millar; Daly, Roe, Rennie, Yardley, Bedford.

SWINDON TOWN.—Nash; Dickinson, Wylie; Low, Bew, Viggars; Denyer, Eddleston, Morris, Roberts, Thom.

Referee:—Mr. A. W. Lamacraft, Exeter.

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AT LUTON, ON MONDAY—

LUTON TOWN		3
CHARLTON ATHLETIC		0

SCORERS.—Rennie, Boylen, Vaughan.
13,500 spectators.

LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Kingham, Richards; Clark, Fulton, Millar; Boylen, Yardley, Rennie, Vaughan, Bedford.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC.—Lindon; Smith, Langford; Hird, G. H. Armitage, Pugsley; Wyper, Whitlow, Lennox, Rankin, Horton.

Referee:—Mr. J. V. Pennington.

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LUTON TOWN won two of their three holiday games, and thus remain among the half-dozen clubs that are striving for championship honours and promotion. They were defeated at Charlton on Good Friday, but succeeded against Swindon and Charlton respectively on Saturday and Monday. The best performance of the three was undoubtedly their Monday success, when they played a far better game than Charlton in conditions that were not conducive to good football, and thus wiped out the sting of Friday's defeat.

For the three games they called upon 15 players, and BOYLEN had the satisfaction of scoring in his first match in this class.

Before the game, I expressed the opinion that it was, perhaps, unwise to put this boy into the first eleven so soon, for he has not been a professional a month. He did quite well, however, and will certainly improve with experience, but I do not think he is quite ready yet. Yardley has been the most consistent forward, and he is a great asset to the club. Whole-hearted, able to hold his own in the roughest games, yet entitled to the compliment paid him by the Charlton amateur, Armitage, on Monday, when he shook hands with him after the game. Yardley is one of the fittest fellows that ever kicked a ball, and if every player followed his example there would be little fear of the result in any game ahead. Rennie scored in each game, and remains at the head of the goal-scorers for the Division. He had little chance at Charlton, but did well on Saturday and Monday. Roe played well in his two games, and it is a compliment to Vaughan to say that Roe was not missed on Monday. Bedford played better on Monday than in either of the two previous games, and Daly was good both on Friday and Saturday. The halves were not at their best at Charlton, but in the first half of Saturday's match they gave a brilliant exhibition in conjunction with the forwards, and on Monday were better still. The four of them were entitled to credit for their work. Harris gave a skilful exhibition at Charlton, and also on Saturday, but Richards was not so sure in either game. On Monday, however, when he crossed to left back, his best place, he and Kingham were very sound, and their strong play in the second half when facing the very strong wind had much to do with the success. Banes also has done well, and is thoroughly established as the first team goalkeeper.

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AT CHARLTON.

The Town did not show up at all well in this game, and the fault was that there was so little team work. Now and then they showed that they could overcome even the sturdy defence of the Athletic, which is one of the soundest in the competition. There was a lot too much roughness in the game, and though the Town were by no means blameless, it was chiefly in the way of reprisals that they erred, and Referee Pennington was not shrewd enough to detect the many little tricks that led to retaliation.

The very hard ground and the lively ball spoilt attempts at combination, but such as there were came chiefly from the Athletic, although there were some nice bits of play by the Town right wing. The home team had the better of the early play, and Wyper paved the way for Horton to open the scoring. The Town defenders were hard pressed at times, but there were also chances at the other end, where the finishing of the Town forwards left much to be desired.

In just about half-an-hour the Athletic got their second goal, ASTLEY netting after Banes had made good saves.

The second half had barely begun when a bad kick by Lindon went straight to RENNIE, who shot without hesitation, and the goalkeeper was beaten all the way. There were hopes that the Town would then draw level, but the Athletic were not having any, and played harder than ever, with the result that WYPER scored from a centre by Horton.

The Town played hard, but there was a lack of understanding, and though many raids were made, Lindon was not greatly troubled. Once Yardley skimmed the bar with a beautiful first-time shot, and Rennie was badly tripped when he had beaten the opposition just outside the penalty area, but the free kick was given 30 to 40 yards from the actual occurrence. In the last minute PUGSLEY beat Banes with a free kick from the touchline, the ball swerving right across the goal to fall just inside the farther post.



AT LUTON, ON SATURDAY.

This was a game of marked contrasts. In the first half Luton gave a remarkable display of first-class football, and the Swindon defence would have been riddled but for the brilliant goalkeeping of Nash. The pace was exhilarating, and time after time the home forwards and halves swept down in delightful formation and many shots only just missed. Goals were bound to come, however, and after six minutes YARDLEY netted from close quarters when the visitors defence got in a tangle.

Now and then the visitors gave trouble, Morris twice boring through to miss narrowly, but following another dazzling movement by the Town right wing, the ball came to the left, and then to RENNIE, who shot well away from Nash, and the ball, as in the first goal, glanced off the post into the net. Again and again the Town beat the visiting halves, and from a flag-kick by Daly the ball was neatly headed into the net by YARDLEY.

A run by the visiting left should have been stopped easily, but Richards miskicked, and Thom scooped up the ball, and centred for EDDLESTON to beat Banes at close range. However, the Town came again, and after a little fizzle among the inside forwards gave RENNIE a pass, and the ball crashed into the net from about 25 yards' range, Nash not having the ghost of a chance to save. Thus at the interval the Town held the substantial lead of four goals to one.

The second half began with the Town still on top, and Nash made three marvellous saves in as many seconds, two from Rennie and one from Yardley. He made other fine saves, but the visitors then got on top by vigorous rallies, and the Town halves and backs simply crumpled for a time. Morris and Thom were chief sources of trouble, and it came as no surprise when MORRIS rushed through and beat Banes with a fast ground shot, although he appeared to be well off-side when he started.

Two minutes later EDDLESTON got hold after a poor kick by Harris, and his shot seemed to be well covered by Banes, but the ball rose suddenly from the ground, and, although the goalkeeper managed to touch it, he could not deflect it over the bar. Swindon worked with great spirit, and came near equalising several times, while at the other end two or three good chances were spoilt by the ineptitude of the Town forwards. In the last minute, however, Daly got over a centre from which ROE headed the fifth goal for the Town.



AT LUTON, ON MONDAY.

Disappointment was felt when the weather showed change on Monday morning, and rain fell, but after noon the sun came out again, accompanied by a very strong wind, and play was considerably spoilt. Not so the result, which exceeded the highest hopes of the supporters after a moderate first half game by the Town. Playing with the powerful wind behind them they had almost all the play, but the inability to control the ball prevented

attacks maturing as the crowd would have liked.

For long periods the visitors were kept on the defensive, but they did their work well, and, after a rather rough beginning the play settled down, and though never lacking in vigour, it was cleaner after a couple of exciting incidents, in which the Charlton backs and Rennie were mixed up, and the referee had consulted the linesman. Lindon made one spectacular save from Rennie, and a number of shots sailed just over the bar, but he was only once beaten. That goal came after 30 minutes' play, when a gorgeous drive by RENNIE from 35 yards' range flashed just inside the upright.

There did not seem much room for doubt, however, that the visitors would be able to overcome the narrow deficit when they turned out for the second half. The wind was as strong as ever, and generally lifted the ball from the spot where goal kicks were taken, much to the amusement of the crowd. They were even worse than the Town had been in their attempts to control, and after a serious assault in the early stages, when Banes twice saved somewhat luckily, they did not give him a great deal of trouble.

The Town played the right sort of game, keeping the ball down admirably, and employing the open game to good effect. They parted with the ball to the best advantage, and thrice as much as came the way of Banes when Luton had the wind behind them. It was a great tonic to the Town players and supporters alike when BOYLEN registered the second goal after a struggle in the Charlton goalmouth twelve minutes after the change of ends.

There seemed then a possibility of the Town holding their own, but a point was still as much as could be expected. However, before the second half was half gone a third goal made victory almost sure, so well were the Town defenders playing, and so poorly did the Athletic shape to control the ball. VAUGHAN was the scorer, and a cleverly worked goal it was, due chiefly to the initiation of Yardley.

For the rest it may be said that the Town maintained their lead and their heads in a situation that required hard work and hard thinking, and the success was thoroughly deserved. They played magnificently to a man, and the hopes of their followers rose again with the promotion fight still open.